

MOVING ON KROONSTAD

British Vanguard Pushing Toward Steyn's Second Capital.

London Expects Early Tidings of Its Occupation—The City Regarded as the Key to the Transvaal—Boers to Retire to Lydenburg When Pretoria is Threatened—General Roberts' Despatch Describing Thursday's Operations North of the Zand River—The Burgers Driven From Point to Point After a Stubborn Resistance—Few English Casualties in Recent Fights Reported.

LONDON, May 11.—It is believed here that Roberts' vanguard of cavalry and horse artillery in pursuit of the Boers, fleeing from his big army after the fight north of the Zand River, has passed a considerable distance beyond Ventersburg and is pushing on toward Kroonstad.

The country beyond the Ventersburg Hills is open and less favorable for defense. Unless Kroonstad has been strongly fortified and the Boer forces are heavily massed behind the Valsburg River, its occupation may be expected within eight hours.

As Steyn's second capital and the key to the Transvaal, its seizure will be almost as important as the capture of Bloemfontein.

From 15,000 to 20,000 is the highest estimate of the Boers under the personal command of General Botha, who, it is said, has forty-six guns. General Botha and General De Wet are said to have quarreled during the northward movement.

General Roberts now has 40,000 men and 140 guns, and 20,000 more men are easily available.

From Welgemoed comes a despatch sent before Roberts' latest victory, saying:

"The engagement on the Vet River caused the Boers to be disheartened by their leaders. It is learned from Pretoria that the Boers intend to retire ultimately to Lydenburg, leaving to the foreign mercenaries the task of defending Johannesburg and Pretoria.

"The foreign mercenaries are now advocating the sending out of guerrilla parties from 300 to 400 strong, rather than a persistence in operations on a large scale, but the Boers are not dashing enough for that kind of work. Whatever happens at Kroonstad, there is little doubt that the frontier will be strongly contested."

The latest despatch from General Roberts, made public by the War Office, was from Klerksburg at 8:55 o'clock last night, and details the operations of yesterday in beating back Botha's army toward Kroonstad.

The despatch indicates that, because of the great amount of territory covered by the forward movement north of the Zand River, General Roberts' advances on the details of the situation and condition of the troops was necessarily incomplete. On the whole, however, the day was successful, from the British point of view. General Roberts' despatch follows:

"Ret Spruit, May 10, 8:55 p. m.—We have had a successful day. I have driven the enemy from point to point. French, with Porter's and Dickson's brigades of cavalry and Hutton's mounted infantry, crossed the Zand at Vermeulen's Kraal and worked northeast to Maatshappij, the enemy opposing them continuously.

"Pole-Carew's Division, Gordon's Cavalry Brigade, Hamilton's force and Ross's Mounted Infantry crossed a drift near the railway bridge. My quartermasters accompanied this portion.

"With the infantry, Hamilton's force and Ross's Mounted Infantry crossed a drift near the railway bridge. My quartermasters accompanied this portion.

"The casualties on both sides were heavy. Four killed and three wounded. Returns from the cavalry and Hamilton have not yet been received.

"ROBERTS."

Details of yesterday's fighting near the Zand River show that the Boers had six guns. They held their ground until the British were within 500 yards of them, when they retired, owing to demonstrations that were being made on their flanks.

The Lancashire and Sussex regiments made a charge, and one account says that each carried a kopje at the point of the bayonet.

WELCOME FOR BOER ENVOYS.

Reception Programme Arranged by the New York Committee.

NEW YORK, May 11.—When the three Boer envoys arrive in this harbor next Monday, on the steamship Maasdam, they will be met down the bay by a committee of fifteen, which was appointed last night by the Citizens' Committee having in charge the entertainment of the representatives from the South African Republic.

Kilian Van Rensselaer was elected chairman of the Citizens' Committee at the meeting in the Hotel Manhattan last night.

Edward Lauterbach said he was a delegate to the Republican National Convention, and that when he went to Philadelphia he intended to fight just as hard to get the Republican Convention to sympathize with the Boers as he had worked for a gold plank in 1896.

He said he had received word from Michigan that unless the Republican party did something to show its sympathy for the Boers it would lose Michigan.

Frat. Adolph Cohn, of Columbia University, proposed that there be a public meeting in City Hall Park, and the suggestion was enthusiastically received. When the names of the reception committee of fifteen were announced, George W. Van Sicken, who has been active in the work of arranging mass meetings for the Boers, took his hat and started out. His name had been omitted from the list. Several persons rushed after him, and, after an explanation, his name was put on in the place of a man who was not anxious to serve.

The plan is to meet the Boers down the bay, take them to luncheon at the Hotel Manhattan, and then present them to the mayor and aldermen.

When preparing to buy lumber and millwork always consult Frank Libbey & Co.

FIGHTING NEAR THABA N' CHU.

Steyn's Forces Withdraw Further to the South.

THABA N' CHU, May 11.—As a result of a recent conference, the Boer leaders, with their forces, have returned to the south, and a line extending from twenty miles from the north to the south-east of Thaba N' Chu. General Rundle detected the movement this morning.

General Grenfell, with Brabant's Horse, pursued the Boers, and some fighting resulted. General Grenfell retired for the night to a kopje, which he now holds. The Boer headquarters are at Eden.

President Steyn, of the Free State, it is said, is in command of 10,000 Boers, who have gathered to resist the advance of General Rundle and Brabant to the east. Eden, mentioned as Boer headquarters, is not on the maps. It is supposed to be a farm near Mequatleng's Nek.

The supposition is that this Boer force has been assembled by drawing men from the northeastern part of the Free State and from Harrismith, and that the burghers from Ladybrand have joined it.

The object of Steyn in collecting this force and giving Rundle and Brabant as much of a fight as possible is to check the British advance into the Senekal, Peka, and Bethlehem districts.

If the British should succeed in overrunning this part of the Free State, they would be in a position effectively to threaten the Boers holding the passes of the Drakensberg Mountains and co-operate with Buller in moving into the Free State.

PILOT TO KILL MILNER.

Alleged Offer of Money to Assassinate the Governor.

CAPE TOWN, May 11.—The "South African Review" asserts that a prominent member of the Afrikaander Bond, who is also a member of the Cape Parliament for the district of Piquetburg, some seventy miles from Cape Town, offered a man money to shoot Sir Alfred Milner, the Governor of Cape Colony.

Affidavits to this effect are now in the hands of the Attorney General.

FOR BRITISH PRISONERS.

The Imperial Authorities Send Money to Pretoria.

CAPE TOWN, May 11.—The Imperial authorities have sent money to Pretoria for needy prisoners both British and Colonial. Each prisoner coming under this description will receive £5.

Helbert, the American Consul at Pretoria, will distribute the money.

OBSTINACY OF THE PORTE.

Turkey Determined to Introduce Duties at Gallipoli.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 11.—Despite the protest presented by the foreign embassies last February, the Porte has presented a new note announcing its decision to introduce duties at Gallipoli.

This is contrary to the treaties, and it is expected that the foreign ambassadors will refuse to accept the decision.

PRESENTED TO THE QUEEN.

Americans in Attendance at the Drawing-Room Today.

LONDON, May 11.—At the Queen's drawing-room today the following Americans were present:

Mrs. Glover, the wife of the American naval attaché; Mrs. Bayard Cutting and Miss Cutting, Mrs. Prescott Butler and Miss Butler, Mrs. Thomas M. Ryan and Miss Ryan, and Miss Snyder, of Philadelphia.

ENGLISH GOLF CHAMPION.

H. H. Hilton Wins the Match at Sandwich.

SANDWICH, May 11.—H. H. Hilton, of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, and James Robb, of the St. Andrews Golf Club, began the play in the final round of the golf championship this morning. The weather was beautiful.

Both men played brilliant golf, and the game was very close throughout. At the end of the first round the scores were: Hilton, 10; Robb, 11.

Hilton outplayed Robb and won the final round by 8 up and 7 to play. He played magnificent golf and thoroughly deserved his first victory in an amateur championship event.

SKULL IN A SECRET PASSAGE.

A Young Woman's Discovery in a Historic Virginia Mansion.

RICHMOND, Va., May 11.—Miss Lillian Harrison, who lives at the old and historic Lower Brandon, on the James River, has just discovered a secret repository in the wing of that old mansion.

She accidentally touched a secret panel in the wall and by amazement a dark closet was revealed. Hastily summoning members of the family, Miss Harrison made a search and discovered a human skull. This panel opened into a secret passage, which was common to the old colonial mansion of the James River.

It is supposed that the skull is that of some person who perished in this passage a century or more ago.

ROBERTS."

When the links make a new recruit the common phrase is, "He's caught the bug."

It is said that the former President's case is said "General Harrison has become a convert to the game."

General Harrison is only following the example of the former President, Cleveland, at Buzzard's Bay and later at Princeton; of Governor Roosevelt, of former Secretary of the Navy Herbert, who was converted by his daughter, and of William J. Bryan, who played on one of the Western courses recently.

Decrease in South African Trade.

CAPE TOWN, May 11.—The imports into Cape Colony during the first quarter of 1900 decreased £667,987 pounds and the exports £5,878,474 as compared with the corresponding period last year. The revenue was nil against £290,199 in 1899.

8:25 to Baltimore and Return via Pennsylvania Railroad.

Tickets on sale Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13, good to return Monday, May 14. All trains except Congressional Limited.

Always Cool at Chesapeake Beach.

Two daily excursion trains, 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. Take Columbia car to depot.

Lowest Bids on Frame House Lumber and millwork, everything ready at 6th and N. Y. ave.

VIOLENCE IN ST. LOUIS

An Unknown Man Throws a Bomb at a Street Car.

The Concussion Shatters Windows and Causes Excitement—Governor Stephens Unable to Effect a Compromise of the Strike—Suburban Lines Running Under Police Guard.

ST. LOUIS, May 11.—Bomb-throwing at the cars of the Lindell system at Jefferson and Washington avenues started the fourth day of the St. Louis car strike this morning.

An unknown man climbed to the roof of a house at the intersecting streets and threw an explosive missile at a car. The concussion shattered the windows of the vehicle and the act created intense excitement. The miscreant succeeded in making his escape, but the police have a good description of the man and expect to run him down.

Further along the street a lot of white powder was scattered on the tracks. When a car struck this explosive it emitted a hissing noise and a white smoke.

The police are out as usual and the suburban and Lindell cars are running under heavy protection and more or less regularly.

Governor Stephens, after an all-day session with leaders of both sides of the strike, returned to Jefferson City last night, his visit not having been productive of anything approaching a settlement. Rifles and ammunition in quantities are now at the disposal of the authorities.

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HARDIN CAPTURES PALANOS.

Capital of Mashate Deserted When the Troops Land.

MANILA, May 11.—After his recent operations in the island of Marinduque, Colonel Hardin, with a battalion of the Twenty-ninth Volunteer Infantry, sailed for Palauos, in the province of Masbate, in the island of the same name.

Before the troops were landed, the gunboat Helena bombarded the town for half an hour. The insurgents in the trenches returned the fire but it had no effect. When the troops landed they met with no opposition. They occupied the capital of the island and the same name.

The Thirty-fifth Volunteer Infantry has just finished a week's campaign in the province of Bulacan, Luzon Island. It is reported that they took one hundred prisoners and captured fifty rifles. The Ninth Infantry, which is quartered at Tarlac, captured 170 rifles.

Rumors of an alleged killing of the Filipinos in Manila are still in circulation. Several arrests have been made and the guards in the suburbs have been doubled in order to suppress any such attempt.

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ARMOR FOR BATTLESHIPS

The Naval Appropriation Bill Discussed in the Senate.

Lively Debate on the Minority Amendment Concerning the Price of Sheathing, Participated in by Messrs. Hale, Tillman, Lodge, Bacon, and Penrose—May Vote Today.

On motion of Mr. Hale, who has charge of the matter, the Senate today resumed consideration of the Naval Appropriation bill with a view to ending discussion and passing the bill today.

The amendment relating to armor and armor plate, which formed the bone of contention on Wednesday, was again brought up and argued. Mr. Hale speaking for the committee amendment and Mr. Tillman for the minority amendment, which proposes that the Government shall not purchase armor plate for battleships.

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